

the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle about strained relations in the Christian community noted that "it has gotten stickier than ever in the aftermath of a presidential election in which moral values played a key role in keeping George W. Bush in the White House."

A Nov. 22 op-ed in *Newsday* by political scientist Laura R. Olson also took off from the fatal assumption. "The much-touted exit poll finding that moral values were the most important Election Day concern of 22 percent of voters highlights the fact that a sizable number of Americans expect political leaders to offer a prophetic vision," she wrote. I'm not picking on her; that's just one example of many I could have cited.

Other scholars have tried to put the exit poll question in perspective. Lawrence R. Jacobs, a political science professor and director of the 2004 Election Project at the University of Minnesota, wrote: "The initial conclusion of media commentators that 'moral values' determined the outcome of the 2004 presidential election was off the mark, neglecting the impacts of partisanship and the economy."

Despite the best efforts of myth-busters, the moral values doctrine has morphed from a simple poll finding to a grand explanatory theory to gospel truth. This contaminated strain of punditry needs to be eradicated before it spreads further.

REMEMBERING REED IRVINE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as America has experienced a presidential election marred by shocking media bias, it is a sad reminder how important Reed Irvine's visionary role has been to promote fairness. Never before has the need been greater with CBS News presenting forged military records as fact, with *The New York Times* contriving an October surprise hoax to slander America's troops, with multiple news organizations gleefully producing fraudulent exit polls to influence voters, and with the Public Broadcasting System hysterically forecasting on election night a coup by Bush supporters. Despite these attacks, the voters knew better and President Bush prevailed.

Fortunately, the propaganda purveyors have been unmasked by Reed Irvine with the assistance of courageous magazines, talk radio, bloggers, and Fox News.

It is particularly fitting that the below obituary was prepared by the noted and courageous, crusading journalist John Gizzi in *Human Events* for the week of November 22, 2004.

DEATH OF A WATCHDOG: REED IRVINE (1922–2004)

(By John Gizzi)

To many liberals in the media targeted by his pointed criticisms, Reed Irvine, the founder of *Accuracy in Media*, was a tormenter. But to his legions of friends and admirers he was the "Sergeant Joe Friday of the American media."

Following his death on November 16 from complications following a stroke, the 82-year-old Irvine was remembered as the conservative movement's pioneering media watchdog.

Born in Salt Lake City, Irvine graduated in 1942, at the age of 19, from the University

of Utah. He then joined the U.S. Navy, which taught him Japanese, and became an interpreter for the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific theater of war and in occupied Japan. Following his discharge, he did graduate work at the University of Washington and won a Fulbright scholarship to Oxford, where he earned a master's degree in 1951.

From 1951 until he retired in 1977, Irvine worked at the Federal Reserve Board. The topic of media bias dominated a group Irvine regularly lunched with and soon he founded *Accuracy in Media* to try to keep the national press honest.

Through op-ed pieces, lectures, in-depth studies, a regular newsletter and frequent appearances on radio and TV, Irvine provided evidence that the major media indeed had a liberal bias. The grassroots following he developed provided AIM with the resources to launch national campaigns against the "gods of the antennae." In 1983, for example, an AIM crusade convinced the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) to give equal time to AIM to rebut an hour-long special, *Vietnam: A Television History*.

In 1985, Irvine started *Accuracy in Academia* to combat leftist teachings at U.S. colleges.

For those outside the movement, Irvine may be best remembered for his spirited appearances at town hall meetings hosted by Ted Koppel on ABC's "Nightline." Perhaps the most poignant tribute to Irvine came from Koppel. "Reed Irvine was, at times, a harsh critic of the television news industry and me in particular," Koppel told *Human Events*, "but throughout the many years that I knew him, he was never anything but courtly and personally gracious. Just as I would insist that all other enterprises in our society benefit from the presence of a critical and fearless press, so, too, the press benefits from being held to high and occasionally harsh standards. Reed Irvine fulfilled that function to the greater good of all."

Irvine leaves his wife of 56 years, Kay Araki Irvine, son Don (who succeeded him as president of *Accuracy in Media*), and three grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO JOAN EAGLESON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joan Eagleson, who was recently honored with the highest award of Sacred Heart Schools, the St. Madeleine Sophie Medal by the Schools of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, California.

An extraordinary educator at St. Joseph's School, Joan has said her greatest teachers are the children she works with every day. The children are her delight and lifeline. Joan believes children are grounding and one has only to listen to their truth and see their beauty. Joan's ability to really hear children draws them to her and she is always there for them.

Joan received her MA in Counseling from the College of Notre Dame. Recognizing the need for children to be heard, she spearheaded the Middle School Advisory Program and the Rainbows Program. Joan is marvelous at helping children recognize the light and love in themselves. One student said, "Have you ever noticed how good you feel about yourself after talking with Mrs. Eagleson?" What better testimony to Joan's ability to bring out the best in a person.

When Sister Ann McGowan, RSCJ hired Joan 16 years ago, she was given the opportunity to teach and run the library. Joan recalls with gratitude Sister Helen Daly's mentoring. Sister Daly saw in Joan the capacity to become a bridge where children could find consolation and support in the new and mysterious world of books and learning. Anyone who has ever walked through St. Joseph's library can feel it is a welcoming place of comfort, warmth, trust and generosity. Joan doesn't fit the stereotype of the librarian who only says, "Shh, be quiet." Joan creates an atmosphere of enthusiasm for learning, a place where children have time to discover, to be curious, to be imaginative, to know the value of not knowing and then, of asking the question and knowing how and where to find the answer. Most importantly, Joan guides children to recognize that what is essential they have within.

When asked what she hoped for the children to learn at St. Joseph's School, Joan said, "the value of simplicity and balance in life; the value of time to be; the value of being present to the moment; the value of embracing life wholeheartedly; the value of working in community; the value of human touch; the value of experiencing joy in the process of learning."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great and inspiring educator, Joan Eagleson, as she is honored with the St. Madeleine Sophie Medal.

RECOGNIZING THE MCGRAW HIGH SCHOOL LADY EAGLES ON THEIR SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 6, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the McGraw High School Lady Eagles for their outstanding performance and their victory in the New York State Class D Soccer Championship.

The Lady Eagles won the title match with a 1–0 victory over Chateaugay on November 20th. Under the leadership of coaches John and Kathy Rutan, they concluded an amazing undefeated season with winning the state championship. Their impressive 24–0 record was the first perfect season for the Lady Eagles, as well as the first state title in school history.

I would like to recognize goalkeeper Christy Mott, forwards Taryn Bilodeau, Jen Rutan, and midfielder Laura Buerkle for their outstanding individual achievements. Christy Mott was awarded the State Tournament Class D Goalkeeper award, as well as an Honorable Mention in the Central Counties League All-Stars. Taryn Bilodeau, in addition to being named a Central Counties League All-Star, scored her 100th career goal this season, was named to the 2nd team in the Central New York All-Star voting, and the Section III Class D All-Star Team. Along with Bilodeau, Jen Rutan and Laura Buerkle shared Central Counties League All Star positions, as well as Section III Class D All-Star honors.

Their remarkable season is a testament to their dedication and commitment to the sport and to the character of these young ladies.